meeting. But we must all work together if this major programme announced on June 18th is to be a success.

I intened, within the limits of my capacity and time, to travel throughout the country to see whether this policy is being Implemented. I would urge the hon. Member to do that in his State/Union Territory.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I hope, Mr. Narayanasamy, you are satisfied.

SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Sir, because of a sharp fall in the price of coffee, for the last two years consecutively, coffee farmers are facing acute problems. With regard to their debt, so far, no support has been given either from the Coffee Board or from the commercial banks or from the rural cooperative banks. In view of this situation, will the Government consider a special package for the coffee farmers which includes waiving of loans and other benefits for the coffee farmers?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, it will not be correct to say that no relief was granted to coffee farmers. The previous Government did announce a package of relief for coffee farmers. That relief, apparently, didn't satisfy the coffee farmers, and they met me to say that they would like, at least, another year's moratorium and a rollover. I have issued instructions that the accumulated interest until 30th June, 2004 should be added to the principal and a moratorium should be granted. I will follow it up and I am confident that the relief that they asked for, if not all, will be granted partially.

Sir, as regards the waiver, let me submit with great respect, as a rule, waiver is not the answer to relieve indebtedness. But I will keep in mind, what the hon. Member has said while we design a relief package.

Expert Committee on water scarcity

*37 PROF. ALKABALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been predicted by Safety Health Environment Expert Committee of the Indian Chemical Manufacturing Association that India will face acute water scarcity by 2005.

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the Expert Committee's remarks;

(c) whether per capita availability of fresh water has dropped from 5000 cubic metres per year in 1947 to below 2000 cubic metres in 1997

and is expected to drop further to below 1500 cubic metres in the next few years;

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to meet the situation; and

(e) whether inter-linking of rivers is the only solution to meet water shortage in future?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House

(a) No, Sir. No such prediction has been made by the Safety Health Environment Expert Committee of the Indian Chemical Manufacturers Association.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The annual average flow in the river systems of the country is 1869 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM). Based on the census data of population, the per capita water availability in 1951 and 2001 have been worked out to be 5177 cubic metre per year and 1820 cubic metre per year respectively. Considering the projected population of 1394 million in 2025, the per capita availability of water is likely to further reduce to 1341 cubic metre per year. However, these assessment are for the country as a whole. There are considerable variation in availability of water from basin to basin.

(d) With a view to address the issue, multi pronged strategies including conservation of water, reduction in loss of water and improvement the efficiency of water resources system with due emphasis on conservation through major and medium projects as well as measures like rain water harvesting and ground water recharge are adopted The Government has also taken up studies to examine the possibility to transfer of surplus flood water after giving due consideration to all related issues with a view to augment the resource availability in water deficit regions.

(e) Due to population growth, urbanisation and industrialisation, the water demand will increase in future. To meet the increased demand it is necessary to consider all possible measures and so far as inter-linking of rivers is concerned, it may also be considered after comprehensive review.

प्रो. अलका क्षत्रिय : सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगी कि क्या वे इज़राइल की तरह यहां भी कोई कानून बनाना चाहेंगे कि जहां भी किसी नयी बिल्डिंग का कंस्ट्रक्शन हो, उसमें वर्षा के जल के संचय की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए ?

श्री प्रियरंजन दासमुंशी : सभापति महोदय, इसके लिए हमें किसी देश का उदाहरण लेने की जरूरत नहीं हैं। मैं इतना ही बताना चाहता हूं कि हमारे देश के अंदर जो एजेंसीज़ हैं, वे इसके बारे में काम करने के लिए बहुत काबिल हैं और हमारा मंत्रालय रेन वाटर हार्वेस्टिंग के सिलसिले में काफी आगे बढ़ चुका है। कई स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स अपने-अपने प्रदेशों में, खास तौर से बड़े-बड़े शहरों में अपने प्रमोटर्स को और बिल्डिंग कंस्ट्रक्शन एजेंसीज़ को सलाह भी दे चुकी हैं और इस दिशा में बहुत ही जल्दी हम लोग एक नीति निर्धारित करेंगे। इसके लिए यदि कानून लाने की जरूरत हुई तों हम कानून भी लांएगे क्योंकि रेन वाटर हार्वेसिंटग हमारे देश के लिए बहुत जरूरी हैं और इसके द्वारा जल संसाधन का काम बहुत तेजी से चलेगा।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Recommendations of Naresh Chandra Committee

*22. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Naresh Chandra Committee, set up to formulate a road map for devlopment of Civil Aviation in the country, recommended more FDI, flights and a regulator, apart from other things;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Committee recommended to allow the entry of foreign airlines in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have studied the Report submitted by the Committee; and

(e) if so, the decision taken by Government on the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.